



February 24, 2015

To the Honorable Members of the Human Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee:

I am submitting this written testimony to oppose the Medicaid provider cuts to the Community Based Providers of Psychiatric and Mental Health Patients.

Administration of medications by a registered nurse also includes the assessment of the efficacy of the medications. This task cannot be delegated when new medications are involved or physical reactions are anticipated. Reduction of the funding for the nurse to administer the medications in many cases will result in emergency room visits, more hospitalizations, or even more drastically, the cessation of a provider's medication administration program because they will not be able to financially support the program.

I am also submitting written testimony to oppose the increase of cost sharing to 15 % for the Connecticut Home Care Program. This will force many who currently share costs to drop out of the program because their financial resources will not be able to absorb the cost increase. It will also bar many who need the services from applying and obtaining them. These individuals will be forced to use the more costly emergency room and hospital care because their medical conditions were exacerbated by lack of help at home.

Overall reduction of reimbursement to home care only serves to decrease the amount of the care that can be given as difficult choices will have to be made in the provision of the services – reduction of staff, reduction of visits and service times, and reduction of access to other community services that now are limited due to financial constraints.

I respectfully request that careful consideration of those who cannot speak for themselves – our mentally ill and frail elderly citizen – is what drives the financial decisions, not the dollar amounts saved.

Respectfully submitted:

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